

192210US-0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
TSUYOSHI KOWAKA ET AL. : GROUP ART UNIT: 1713
SERIAL NO: 09/577,158 :
FILED: MAY 24, 2000 : EXAMINER: WILSON, D.
DIV. CPA FILED: SEPTEMBER 6, 2002 :
FOR: POLYVINYL ALCOHOL POLYMER
PRODUCTION METHOD AND
POLYVINYL ALCOHOL POLYMER

#18/19
Jpella
4/1/03

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

RECEIVED
MAR 31 2003
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 3, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment, Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 of named coinventor Kazunori Watanabe (Watanabe Declaration) **submitted herewith**, and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 29, 31-40, ~~43-45~~, 47-50, 52-54 and 59.

Please amend Claim 55 as follows:

55. (Amended) A method of producing polyvinyl alcohol polymer comprising:
saponification of a polyvinyl ester in an alcohol-containing organic solvent under the
presence of a saponification catalyst, wherein saponification is carried out with a mole ratio

201